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24 March 1960

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Director, ORC
SUBJECT: Proposed Watch Committee

1. Herewith is the reply from the Navy dated 23 March to our circular of 6 March to the Standing Committee about the proposed Watch Committee. It is the first one we have received but we understand, orally, that the State Department is also going to object to this proposal.
2. Since copies of the enclosure went to the Army and Air Force, it looks to me that it is possible for a change, that the Pentagon will have a unified front on this but, of course, there are no assurances of that.
3. As you know, State has already approved of the other half of the Bolling proposal, i.e., a permanent Committee on Soviet Intentions and Capabilities but the Navy has not thought that one important enough to set up a formal interdepartmental committee so I don't know yet how the Bolling proposal can be separated or clarified to suit everybody.
4. Apparently there will have to be some more interdepartmental work done on this, maybe at various levels, but we shall know more about that when we receive the other replies.

PRESCOTT CHILDS, Chief
Coordination, Operations
and Policy Staff

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cc:
Advisory Council

20/04/1

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